

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office

Please note the previous Decision Record for the DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2009-41 for the Roswell Field Office's April 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, signed March 19, 2009, has been rescinded. This Decision Record replaces the previously issued for DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2009-41.

Various Locations in Chaves, Guadalupe, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Impact identification and analysis of approving the project proposal and alternative has been completed. Environmental analysis has been conducted based on available inventory and monitoring data files. An environmental assessment has been prepared and revised as necessary. The proposed action conforms with and is within the scope of the land use decisions described in the 1997 Roswell Approved Resource Management Plan and the 2008 Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment. Implementation of required stipulations and/or mitigating measures, will maintain impacts within those levels analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS. Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Decision Record

Fifteen (15) parcels with a total of 15,164.810 acres were nominated, of which six (6) parcels in their entirety with a total of 5,826.100 acres are not leaseable and were removed from the April 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

Based upon the analysis, it is my decision to recommend that the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office offer for competitive sale; nine (9) parcels in their entirety of federal minerals (9,338.710 acres) originally listed in the April 2009 Draft Sale Parcel List with the addition of further stipulations and lease notices to certain parcels. The proposed action is in compliance with the 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan, as amended.

The following nine (9) parcels in their entirety would be included in the lease sale.

Parcel Number	Acres	Stipulations	Stipulation Title
NM-200904-065	1541.700	SENM-S-17	Slopes or Fragile
NM-200904-066	956.300	SENM-S-17	Slopes or Fragile
NM-200904-067	1440.000	SENM-S-20	Seeps, Springs and Tanks
NM-200904-068	1680.710	SENM-S-20	Seeps, Springs and Tanks
NM-200904-069	520.000	SENM-S-19	Playas and Alkali Lakes
NM-200904-072	1920.000	SENM-LN-02	Protection of Sand Dune Lizard Habitat
NM-200904-073	480.000	SENM-S-19 SENM-S-20	Playas and Alkali Lakes Seeps, Springs and Tanks
NM-200904-074	640.000	SENM-LN-02 SENM-S-23	Protection of Sand Dune Lizard Habitat NSO- Sand Dune Lizard Habitat
NM-200904-084	160.000	None	None

Parcel number, acreage, and location of parcels are listed in Appendix 1, Table 1.

The nine (9) parcels in their entirety were reviewed by Roswell Lease Staff, an interdisciplinary group of specialists, at the Roswell Field Office. The purpose of the review was to determine if the parcels were in areas open to oil and gas leasing; if leasing was in conformance with the existing land use plans; if new information had been developed which might affect leasing suitability; to ensure that appropriate lease stipulations were attached to each lease parcel; and to verify that appropriate consultations had been conducted.

BLM inventory and monitoring data files and the professional opinion of BLM endangered species specialists is that no federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species would be adversely affected by sale of the lease parcels. Effects of oil and gas leasing and development on threatened or endangered species were analyzed in Section 7 consultation (Cons. # 2-22-96-F-102, Cons. #22420-2006-I-0144, and Cons. #22420-2007-TA-0033). No new information has been uncovered which would change that analysis. Additional review and analysis would occur when site specific proposals for development are received.

New information regarding greenhouse gas emissions and climate change has been developed since the RMP. This information has been incorporated into DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2009-41. Analysis determined that leasing the subject tracts could lead to eventual development which would result in small incremental increases in GHG emissions. These emissions will be minimized by special conditions of approval developed for specific development proposals.

Mitigating measures and/or stipulations were considered and analyzed in the environmental assessment. Appropriate lease stipulations and lease notices will be attached to individual parcels as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 of the EA.


Administrative Review and Appeal:

This protest process for this Decision Record has been instituted to reconcile differences between oil and gas lease sale and NEPA regulations; and improve the opportunities for public input into agency decisions. This Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment must be protested under 43 CFR 3120.1-3. Protests must be received within 30 days of the signed decision record. You may file a protest by mail, in hardcopy form or by telefax. You may not file a protest sent to a fax number other than the fax number identified below. Any protests filed by electronic mail will be dismissed. A protest filed by fax must be sent to (505) 438-7458 or by mail to: BLM New Mexico, 1474 Rodeo Road, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502 Attn: Minerals-Protests.


A protest must state the interest of the protesting party in the matter. The protest must also include any statement of reasons to support the protest. We will dismiss a late-filed protest or a protest filed without a statement of reasons.

If the party signing a protest is doing so on behalf of an association, partnership or corporations, the signing party must reveal the relationship between them. Before including your phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Prepared by:

 Date 3/24/09
Richard Hill, Environmental Protection Specialist

Reviewed By:

 Date March 24, 2009
Angel Mayes, Assistant Field Manager,
Lands and Minerals

Approved by:

 Date 3/24/09
Charles Schmidt – Roswell Field Office Manager

Bureau of Land Management, Roswell Field Office
EA Checklist, DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2009-41 April 2009 Lease Sale

Resources	Not Present on Site	No Impacts	May Be Impacts	Mitigation Included	BLM Reviewer	Date
Air Quality			X	X	Hydrologist	1/09/09
Soil			X	X	/s/ Michael McGee	
Watershed Hydrology			X	X		
Floodplains			X	X		
Water Quality - Surface			X	X		
Water Quality - Ground			X	X	/s/ John S. Simitz Geologist	1/14/09
Cultural Resources		X			Pat Flanary	1/05/09
Native American Religious Concerns			X	X		
Paleontology		X			Archaeologist	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X				/s/J H Parman Plan & Environ. Coord.	12/23/08
Farmlands, Prime or Unique		X			Realty	1/15/09
Rights-of-Way		X			/s/ Sanderford	
Invasive, Non-native Species			X	X	/s/ Kyle Arnold	1/09/09
Vegetation	X				Range Mgmt. Spec.	
Livestock Grazing	X					
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	X				Richard G. Hill Environ .Prot. Spec.	12/12/08
Threatened or Endangered Species	X				/s/ D Baggao Biologist	1/9/09
Special Status Species			X	X		
Wildlife			X	X		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	X					
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X				/s/Bill Murry Outdoor Rec. Planer	1/6/09
Wilderness	X					
Recreation		X				
Visual Resources		X				
Cave/Karst		X				
Environmental Justice		X			Richard G. Hill	12/12/08
Public Health and Safety		X			Environ .Prot. Spec.	
Solid Mineral Resources					Geologist	
Fluid Mineral Resources		X			/s/ John S. Simitz Geologist	1/14/09
Full Field Development RFO		X			/S/AL COLLAR Geologist	1/26/09
Communitization/Unitization		X			/s/ John S. Simitz Geologist	1/14/09

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ROSWELL FIELD OFFICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR APRIL 2009 COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2009-41

INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*] and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.

The BLM New Mexico State Office conducts a quarterly competitive lease sale to sell available oil and gas lease parcels in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. A Notice of Competitive Lease Sale, which lists lease parcels to be offered at the auction, is published by the BLM State Office at least 45 days before the auction is held. Lease stipulations applicable to each parcel are specified in the Sale Notice. The decision as to which public lands and minerals are open for leasing and what leasing stipulations may be necessary, based on information available at the time, is made during the land use planning process. Surface management of non-BLM administered land overlaying federal minerals is determined by BLM in consultation with the appropriate surface management agency or the private surface owner.

In the process of preparing a lease sale the BLM State Office sends a draft parcel list to each field office where the parcels are located. Field Office staff then review the legal descriptions of the parcels to determine if they are in areas open to leasing; if appropriate stipulations have been included; if new information has become available which might change any analysis conducted during the planning process; if appropriate consultations have been conducted, and if there are special resource conditions of which potential bidders should be made aware. Once the draft parcel review is completed and returned to the State Office, a list of available lease parcels and stipulations is made available to the public through a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale (NCLS). On rare occasions, additional information obtained after the publication of the NCLS, may result in withdrawal of certain parcels prior to the day of the lease sale.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was analyzed by the Roswell Field Office Lease Staff who reviewed the fifteen (15) nominated lease parcels (15,164.810 acres) under the administration of the Roswell Field Office. The proposed April 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale parcels were analyzed to verify conformance with the approved 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan, as amended and provide the rationale for deferring or dropping parcels from a lease sale as well as providing rationale for attaching additional lease stipulations to specific parcels.

1.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this document is to analyze the impacts of offering parcels for competitive oil and gas leasing is to allow private individuals or companies to explore for and develop oil and gas resources on public markets. The analysis is needed to meet BLM's obligations under federal statutes.

The sale of oil and gas leases is needed to meet the growing energy needs of the United States public. New Mexico is a major source of natural gas for heating and electrical energy production in the lower 48 states, especially California. Continued leasing is necessary to maintain options for production as oil and gas companies seek new areas for production or attempt to develop previously inaccessible or uneconomical reserves.

1.1 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan and Other Environmental Assessments

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.28 and 1502.21, this environmental assessment (EA) tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the Roswell Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1997), as amended. The Final Resource Management was approved by the Record of Decision (ROD) signed October 1997. The RMP designated approximately 7.84 million acres of federal minerals open for continued oil and gas development and leasing under Standard Terms and Conditions. The RMP described specific stipulations that would be attached to new leases offered in certain areas. The leasing decisions of the 1997 Roswell RMP were amended by the 2008 Special Status Species RMPA Amendment.

Site specific analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (Public Law 91-90, USC 4321 *et seq.*) was conducted by Roswell Field Office resource specialists who relied on personal knowledge of the areas involved and/or reviewed existing databases and file information to determine if appropriate stipulations had been attached to specific parcels.

It is unknown when, where or if future well sites or roads might be proposed. Also, at the time of this review, it is unknown whether a parcel will be sold and a lease issued. Analysis of projected surface disturbance impacts, should a lease be developed, was estimated based on potential well densities listed in the Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario used as the basis for the 1997/PRMP/FEIS and the 2008 SSS RMPA. Detailed site specific analysis of individual wells or roads would occur when a lease holder submits an Application for Permit to Drill (APD).

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 categorically excludes certain oil and gas development activities from further NEPA analysis. However, excluded projects must conform with the applicable RMP including any restrictions to development presented in the Plan.

The proposed oil and gas lease sale would not be in conflict with any local, county, or state plans.

1.2 Federal, State or Local Permits, Licenses or Other Consultation Requirements

Purchasers of oil and gas leases are required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations including obtaining all necessary permits required should lease development occur.

Roswell Field Office endangered species specialists reviewed the proposed action and determined it would be in compliance with threatened and endangered species management guidelines outlined in Biological Opinions Cons. #2-22-96-F-102, Cons. #22420-2006-I-0144, and Cons. #22420-2007-TA-0033. No further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required at this stage.

Compliance with Section 106 responsibilities of the National Historic Preservation Act are adhered to by following the BLM – New Mexico SHPO protocol agreement, which is authorized by the National Programmatic Agreement between BLM, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and other applicable BLM handbooks.

PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

2.0 Alternatives; Including the Proposed Action

Fifteen (15) lease parcels (15,164.810 acres) were originally nominated and proposed for inclusion in the April 2009 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

2.1 Alternative A - No Action

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) states that for Environmental Assessments (EAs) on externally initiated proposed actions, the No Action Alternative generally means that the proposed action would not take place. In the case of a lease sale, this would mean that an expression of interest to lease (parcel nomination) would be denied or rejected.

The No Action alternative would withdraw all fifteen (15) lease parcels from the April 2009 lease sale. Surface management would remain the same and ongoing oil and gas development would continue on surrounding federal, private, and state leases.

If the BLM does not lease these Federal minerals, an assumption is that it is not expected that demand would decrease for oil and gas. Demand would likely be addressed through production elsewhere or imports. Due to less stringent environmental regulations in some areas outside of the U.S., it is possible that there would be increased emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC), air borne dust, and GHGs during exploration and production operations. In addition, it is anticipated that there would be additional emissions of GHGs during transportation of these commodities to US ports.

Socio-economics

It is an assumption that the No Action Alternative (no lease option) may result in a slight reduction in domestic production of oil and gas.

This would likely result in reduced Federal and State royalty income, and the potential for Federal land to be drained by wells on adjacent private or state land. Consumption of oil and gas developed from the proposed lease parcels is expected to produce GHGs. Consumption is driven by a variety of complex interacting factors including energy costs, energy efficiency, availability of other energy sources, economics, demography, and weather or climate.

If the BLM were to forego its leasing decisions and potential development of those minerals, the assumption is that the public's demand for the resource would not be expected to change. Instead, the resource foregone would be replaced by other sources that may include a combination of imports, fuel switching, and other domestic production. This displacement of supply would offset any reductions in emissions achieved by not leasing the subject tracts.

2.2 Alternative B Proposed Action

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would be the recommendation to the State Director to offer for oil and gas leasing nine (9) parcels of federal minerals covering 9,338.710 acres administered by the Roswell Field Office. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3131.3) would be added to the eight (8) parcels to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

The nine (9) parcels (9,338.710 acres) in their entirety would be included in the lease sale with the lease stipulations and lease notice. Parcel number, acreage, and location of parcels are listed in Appendix 1, Table 1, with the attached stipulations.

- 1. NM-200904-065 1541.700 Acres**
T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM
Sec. 001 LOTS 1-4;
 003 LOTS 1-8;
 003 SENE,E2SE,SWSE;
 004 LOTS 1,8;
 010 NE,SW,N2SE,SWSE;
 011 W2NW,SESE;
 012 SWSW;
 013 SWNE,E2NW,NWNW,NESW,NWSE;
 014 NWNW;
 015 NWNW,S2SW;
Guadalupe County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-17:

T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 003 LOTS 5,6,7;

003 W2SENE, W2NESE, SESE, E2SWSE;

004 S2LOT 8;

010 NENE, E2NWNW, E2SWNE, SENE, E2NESE;

011 NWNW, W2SWNW;

012 W2SWSW;

013 W2SENW, NWNW, W2NESW;

Guadalupe County

2. NM-200904-066 956.300 Acres

T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 004 LOTS 4,5;

004 SWNW;

005 LOTS 1,2,8;

005 SENE,N2SW,NESE;

006 LOTS 3,4,5,9,10,11;

006 SWNE,SENW,E2SW;

007 LOTS 1;

009 W2W2,SENW;

018 SESW;

Guadalupe County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-17:

T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 009 E2NWNW, SWNW, W2NWSW, SWSW, SENW;

Guadalupe County

3. NM-200904-067 1440.000 Acres

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 001 N2;

011 S2;

012 E2,SW;

014 E2;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-20:

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 012 W2SWSW;

Chaves County

Well liability: K-M Federal No. 1 well located in NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, Section 11, T.0050S, R.0270E, NMPM, NM. The well was plugged down hole but the surface has not been reclaimed. The new lessee shall agree to accept full responsibility and liability for the un-reclaimed surface disturbance.

4. NM-200904-068 1680.710 Acres

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 003 LOTS 3,4;

003 S2NW,S2SW,SWSE;

004 LOTS 1-3;

004 S2NE,SENE,E2SW,SE;

009 E2E2;

010 N2NE,S2NE,W2,SE;

015 NE;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-20:

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 003 S2SENE;

004 S2SESW;

009 W2NENE, W2SENE;

010 W2SESW;

Chaves County

5. NM-200904-069 520.000 Acres

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 022 S2S2;

023 S2S2;

024 S2NW,W2SW;

026 NENE;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-19:

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 022 W2SESW;

Chaves County

Well liability: Denton Federal No 1 well located in SE¹/₄SE¹/₄, Section 26, T.0050S, R.0270E, NMPM, NM. The well was plugged down hole but the surface has not been reclaimed. The new lessee shall agree to accept full responsibility and liability for any un-reclaimed surface disturbance.

6. NM-200904-072 1920.000 Acres

T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 007 E2,E2W2;

008 W2;

017 ALL;

018 E2,E2W2;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.):

T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 017 ALL;

Chaves County

Well liability; King Camp Well No. 5, located 1980' FSL & 1980' FWL in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, T.0130S, R.0290E, NMPM, NM and King Camp Well No. 7, located 1980' FSL & 660' FWL in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, T.0130S, R.0290E, NMPM, NM. The wells are plugged down hole but the surface has not been reclaimed. The new lessee shall agree to accept full responsibility and liability for the un-reclaimed surface disturbance.

7. NM-200904-073 480.000 Acres

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 014 E2;

022 NE;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-S-19 and SENM-S-20:

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 014 N2SWSE;

Chaves County

Well liability; Patrick Federal #1 well, located 1980' FNL & 660' FWL in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T.0150S, R.0290E, NMPM, NM. The well is plugged down hole but the surface has not been reclaimed. The new lessee shall agree to accept full responsibility and liability for the un-reclaimed surface disturbance.

8. NM-200904-074 640.000 Acres

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 025 ALL;

Chaves County

Stipulations:

SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.) & SENM-S-23:

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 025; West $\frac{1}{2}$; SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.)

East $\frac{1}{2}$; SENM-S-23

Chaves County

Well liability; Saunders #1 well, located 2310' FNL & 2310' FWL in the SE¼NW¼, Section 25, T.0150S, R.0290E, NMPM, NM. The well is plugged down hole but the surface has not been reclaimed. The new lessee shall agree to accept full responsibility and liability for the un-reclaimed surface disturbance.

**9. NM-200904-084 160.000 Acres
T.0050S, R.0330E, NM PM, NM
Sec. 020 NE;
Roosevelt County
Roswell FO
NMNM 55955
Formerly Lease No.
Stipulations: NONE**

Once sold, the lease purchaser has the right to use so much of the leased lands as is reasonably necessary to explore and drill for all of the oil and gas within the lease boundaries, subject to the stipulations attached to the lease (Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3101.1-4). Drilling wells on a lease is not permitted until the lease owner or operator secures approval of a drilling permit and a surface use plan specified in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3162.

Oil and gas leases are issued for a 10-year period and continue for as long as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. If a lessee fails to produce oil and gas, does not make annual rental payments, does not comply with the terms and conditions of the lease, or relinquishes the lease; the properties will be reconsidered for re-lease.

An alternative of offering all parcels with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation was not analyzed in detail as those areas for which NSO was considered appropriate were analyzed in the 1997/PRMP/FEIS. No other alternatives to the proposed action were apparent which would meet the purpose and need of the proposed action. Some parcels are not open to leasing and were pulled from the lease sale.

No lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3131.3) would be added to deferred parcels to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations listed in the RMP would not be applied to the deferred lease sale parcels.

It will be recommended to the State Director that the BLM-RFO will not offer for oil and gas leasing six (6) deferred parcels of federal minerals covering 5,826.100 acres administered by the Roswell Field Office.

The leasing decisions of the 1997 Roswell RMP were amended by the 2008 Special Status Species RMPA Amendment. The following six (6) nominated parcels are not open to leasing:

Lease parcel number	Acreage	RMPA CLOSED TO LEASING
1. NM-200904-070	640.000 Acres	CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
2. NM-200904-071	1280.220 Acres	CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
3. NM-200904-077	160.000 Acres	CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
4. NM-200904-078	643.700 Acres	SPARSE and SCATTERED POPULATION AREA (SSPA)
5. NM-200904-096	564.580 Acres	PRIMARY POPULATION AREA (PPA)
6. NM-200904-097	2537.600 Acres	PRIMARY POPULATION AREA (PPA)

TOTAL ACRES PULLED FROM THE APRIL 2009 LEASE SALE:

2,080.220 Acres - PULLED FROM LEASE SALE (CMA)
643.700 Acres - PULLED FROM LEASE SALE (SSPA)
3,102.180 Acres - PULLED FROM LEASE SALE (PPA)
5,826.100 Acres - PULLED FROM APRIL LEASE SALE

2.3 Alternative C - Considered But Not Analyzed In Detail

The original draft parcel list sent to the field office included some parcels in areas closed to leasing in the Roswell Management Plan Amendment (RMPA). Inclusion of parcels in areas closed to leasing would not be in compliance with the land use plan, thus the parcels will be dropped from consideration.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.0 Description of Affected Environment

This section describes the environment that would be affected by implementation of the alternatives described in Section 2. Aspects of the affected environment described in this section focus on the relevant major resources or issues. Certain critical environmental components require analysis under BLM policy.

Only those aspects of the affected environment that are potentially impacted are described in detail. The following elements are not present: Prime or Unique Farmlands, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wetlands /Riparian Zones, Floodplains, Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Livestock Grazing, and Wild Horses and Burros.

The proposed lease parcels are located in Chaves, Roosevelt, and Guadalupe Counties, New Mexico. These parcels are described in the 1997 Roswell RMP Record of Decision. Additional general information on air quality in these areas is contained in Chapter 3 of the Roswell Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement.

In addition to the air quality information in the RMPs cited above, new information about GHGs and their effects on national and global climate conditions has emerged since the RMPs were prepared. On-going scientific research has identified the potential impacts of GHG emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) methane (CH₄); nitrous oxide (N₂O); water vapor; and several trace gasses on global climate.

Through complex interactions on a global scale, GHG emissions cause a net warming effect of the atmosphere, primarily by decreasing the amount of heat energy radiated by the earth back into space. Although GHG levels have varied for millennia (along with corresponding variations in climatic conditions), industrialization and burning of fossil carbon sources have caused GHG concentrations to increase measurably, and may contribute to overall climatic changes, typically referred to as global warming.

This EA incorporates an analysis of the contributions of the proposed action to GHG emissions and a general discussion of potential impacts to climate.

3.1 Air Resources

Air quality and climate are the components of air resources, which include applications, activities, and management of the air resource. Therefore, the BLM must consider and analyze the potential effects of BLM and BLM-authorized activities on air resources as part of the planning and decision making process.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the primary responsibility for regulating air quality, including seven nationally regulated ambient air pollutants. Regulation of air quality is also delegated to some states. Air quality is determined by atmospheric pollutants and chemistry, dispersion meteorology and terrain, and also includes applications of noise, smoke management, and visibility. Climate is the composite of generally prevailing weather conditions of a particular region throughout the year, averaged over a series of years.

3.1.1 Air Quality

The area of the proposed action is considered a Class II air quality area. A Class II area allows moderate amounts air quality degradation. The primary sources of air pollution are dust from blowing wind on disturbed or exposed soil and exhaust emissions from motorized equipment.

Air quality in the areas of the proposed lease tracts is generally good. None of the potential lease tracts are located in any of the areas designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as “non-attainment areas” for any listed pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act.

Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), and the potential effects of GHG emissions on climate, are not regulated by the EPA under the Clean Air Act. However, climate has the potential to influence renewable and non-renewable resource management.

The EPA’s Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks found that in 2006, total US GHG emissions were over 6 billion metric tons and that total US GHG emissions have increased by 14.1 percent from 1990 to 2006. The report also noted that GHG emissions fell by 1.5 percent from 2005 to 2006. This decrease was, in part, attributed to the increased use of natural gas and other alternatives to burning coal in electric power generation.

The levels of these GHGs are expected to continue increasing. The rate of increase is expected to slow as greater awareness of the potential environmental and economic costs associated with increased levels of GHG's result in behavioral and industrial adaptations.

3.1.2 Climate

Global mean surface temperatures have increased nearly 1.0°C (1.8°F) from 1890 to 2006 (Goddard Institute for Space Studies, 2007). However, observations and predictive models indicate that average temperature changes are likely to be greater in the Northern Hemisphere. Without additional meteorological monitoring systems, it is difficult to determine the spatial and temporal variability and change of climatic conditions, but increasing concentrations of GHGs are likely to accelerate the rate of climate change.

In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted that by the year 2100, global average surface temperatures would increase 1.4 to 5.8°C (2.5 to 10.4°F) above 1990 levels. The National Academy of Sciences (2006) supports these predictions, but has acknowledged that there are uncertainties regarding how climate change may affect different regions. Computer model predictions indicate that increases in temperature will not be equally distributed, but are likely to be accentuated at higher latitudes. Warming during the winter months is expected to be greater than during the summer, and increases in daily minimum temperatures is more likely than increases in daily maximum temperatures. It is not, however, possible to predict with any certainty regional or site specific effects on climate relative to the proposed lease parcels and subsequent actions.

However, potential impacts to natural resources and plant and animal species due to climate change are likely to be varied, including those in the southwestern United States. For example, if global climate change results in a warmer and drier climate, increased particulate matter impacts could occur due to increased windblown dust from drier and less stable soils.

Cool season plant species' spatial ranges are predicted to move north and to higher elevations, and extinction of endemic threatened/endangered plants may be accelerated. Due to loss of habitat or competition from other species whose ranges may shift northward, the population of some animal species may be reduced or increased. Less snow at lower elevations would likely impact the timing and quantity of snowmelt, which, in turn, could impact water resources and species dependant on historic water conditions. Forests at higher elevations in New Mexico, for example, have been exposed to warmer and drier conditions over a ten year period. Should the trend continue, the habitats and identified drought sensitive species in these forested areas and higher elevations may also be more affected by climate change.

In New Mexico, a recent study indicated that the mean annual temperatures have exceeded the global averages by nearly 50 percent since the 1970's (Enquist and Gori). Similar to trends in national data, increases in mean winter temperatures in the southwest have contributed to this rise. When compared to baseline information, periods between 1991 and 2005 show temperature increases in over 95 percent of the geographical area of New Mexico. Warming is greatest in the northwestern, central, and southwestern parts of the state.

3.2 Cultural and Paleontology Resources

Once the decision is made by the lessee to develop a lease, area specific cultural records review would be done to determine if there is a need for a cultural inventory of the areas that could be affected by the subsequent surface disturbing activities.

A cultural inventory will be required and all historic and archaeological sites that are eligible for listing in the National register of Historic Places or potentially eligible to be listed would be either avoided by the undertaking or have the information in the sites extracted through archaeological data recovery prior to surface disturbance.

Parcels available for lease through this lease sale offering may contain vertebrate fossils and the same cultural reviews would apply for the Paleontology Resources.

3.3 Native American Religious Concerns

A review of existing information indicates the proposed actions are outside any known Traditional Cultural Property. There still could be areas within these leases where Native American tribes have concerns and may ask for these areas to be withdrawn from leasing once they have reviewed the legal descriptions.

3.4 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 requires Federal agencies to assess projects to ensure there is no disproportionately high or adverse environmental, health, or safety impacts on minority and low-income populations. A review of the parcels offered for lease indicates there are no impacts on minority and low-income populations.

3.5 Invasive, Non-native Species

Once the decision is made by the lessee to develop a lease, area specific Invasive and Non native species (Weed) inventory review is done to determine if there is a need for a weed inventory of the areas to be affected by surface disturbing activities. Generally, an Invasive and Non native species (Weed) inventory would be required. While there are no known populations of invasive or non-native species on the propose parcels, infestations of noxious weeds can have a disastrous impact on biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Noxious weeds affect native plant species by out-competing native vegetation for light, water and soil nutrients. Noxious weeds cause estimated losses to producers \$2 to \$3 billion annually. These losses are attributed to: (1) Decreased quality of agricultural products due to high levels of competition from noxious weeds; (2) decreased quantity of agricultural products due to noxious weed infestations; and (3) costs to control and/or prevent the noxious weeds.

Furthermore, noxious weeds can negatively affect livestock and dairy producers by making forage either unpalatable or toxic to livestock, thus decreasing livestock productivity and potentially increasing producers' feed and animal health care costs. Increased costs to operators are eventually borne by consumers.

Noxious weeds also affect recreational uses, and reduce realty values of both the directly influenced and adjacent properties.

Recent federal legislation has been enacted requiring state and county agencies to implement noxious weed control programs. Monies would be made available for these activities from the federal government, generated from the federal tax base. Therefore, all citizens and taxpayers of the United States are directly affected when noxious weed control prevention is not exercised.

3.6 Threatened or Endangered Species

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the BLM is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on any proposed action which may affect Federal listed threatened or endangered species or species proposed for listing.

RFO reviewed and determined the proposed action is in compliance with listed species management guidelines outlined in the Biological Opinions Cons. #2-22-96-F-102, Cons. #22420-2006-I-0144, and Cons. #22420-2007-TA-0033. No further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required.

3.7 Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

No waste material would be removed from the project areas from subsequent proposed and approved Applications for Permit Drill. Upon reclamation of the surface disturbances created by the construction of reserve pits for example, the more stringent New Mexico Oil Conservation Division pit reclamation guidelines would be imposed where applicable to contain any oil or gas field hazardous or solid waste.

3.8 Water Quality – Surface/Ground

Surface water within the area is affected by geology, precipitation, and water erosion. Factors that currently affect surface water resources include livestock grazing management, oil and gas development, recreational use and brush control treatments. No perennial surface water is found on public land in the proposed lease areas. Intermittent streams and rivers are located within the area of the proposed lease sale. Ephemeral surface water within the area may be located in tributaries, playas, alkali lakes and stock tanks.

Groundwater within the area is affected by geology and precipitation. Factors that currently affect groundwater resources in the area include livestock grazing management, oil and gas development, groundwater pumping, and possible impacts from brush control treatments. Most of the groundwater in the area is used for industrial, rural, domestic and livestock purposes.

3.9 General Topography/Surface Geology

The topographic characteristics and/or regional setting of the leaseable areas are: The land involved in this lease sale has topographic forms that naturally vary, not only by the natural topography of the land, but in differences in rock and soil texture and composition. The lease parcel areas may vary from hilly uplands to flat land and with different degrees of sloping from place to place. The horizontal strata of the leaseable areas have small mountains, plateau escarpments and other topographical features that are etched out by weathering. The topographic details of land in the lease sale are dependent upon differences in rock structure, soil texture, and varying land attitudes that give rise to prominences of semi-arid desert type surface features.

3.10 Soil

The Soil Associations and Land Classifications for Irrigation **Guadalupe County**, New Mexico, (New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 246, 1973) was used to describe and analyze impacts to soil from the proposed action. The soil map units represented in the project area are:

Lacita-Redona-Quay: Lacita soils are nearly level to gently sloping channeled valley bottoms and alluvial fans with thin surface loams or silt loams and moderate to severe, moderately slow permeability.

Redona soils are nearly level to very gently undulating plains with fine sandy loams, sandy clay loams, light clay loams and moderate to moderately permeable. Quay soils are gently sloping fans extending from the base of escarpments and breaks to the lower-lying valleys with loams, fine sandy loams and moderate to slow permeability.

La Lande-Ima-Rough Broken and Stony Land association: La Lande soils on crests and side slopes of slightly elevated ridges, loams, fine sandy loams, sandy loams and slight to moderately permeable. Ima soils, gently to strongly sloping alluvial fans and side slopes, fine sandy loams, sandy loams and slightly permeable. Rough Broken and Stony Land steep escarpment and dissected breaks areas, sandy loams.

Redona-Bascom association: Redona soils, fine sandy loam, sandy clay loam, light clay loam. Bascom soils, on low or slightly elevated ridges.

Crews-Bernal-Travessilla association: Crews soils on gently sloping and undulating uplands. Bernal soils gently sloping rolling landscapes. Travessilla soils, gently sloping to moderately steep landscapes on sandstone mesas and breaks.

The Soil Survey of Chaves County, New Mexico, **Northern Part** (USDA Soil Conservation Service 1980) was used to describe and analyze impacts to soil from the proposed action. The soil map units represented in the project area are:

Faskin-Roswell-Jamar: Deep, well drained and excessively drained, nearly level to hilly soils on high terraces. Slope is 0 to 30 percent. Rapidly permeable, moderately permeable, to moderately permeable soils.

Redona-Ratliff-Blakeny: Shallow and deep, well drained, nearly level to gently sloping soils. Slope is 0 to 5 percent. Moderately permeable to moderately rapidly permeable soils.

The Soil Survey of Chaves County, New Mexico, **Southern Part** (USDA Soil Conservation Service 1980) was used to describe and analyze impacts to soil from the proposed action. The soil map units represented in the project area are:

Roswell-Faskin-Jalmar association: Deep, level to rolling, rapidly permeable and moderately permeable fine sands. Slopes are 0 to 15 percent.

Tencee-Simona-Sotim association: Level to gently rolling, moderately permeable and moderately rapidly permeable gravelly fine sandy loams and fine sandy loams that are 6 to 20 inches deep over indurated caliche and deep level to gently sloping, moderately slowly permeable fine sandy loams. Slopes are 0 to 9 percent.

The Soil Survey of **Roosevelt** County, New Mexico, (USDA Soil Conservation Service 1967) was used to describe and analyze impacts to soil from the proposed action. The soil map units represented in the project area are:

Amarillo-Clovis loams association: Deep and moderately deep hardland. The association consists mainly of deep and moderately deep, nearly level or gently sloping, medium-textured soils. The association has a loamy surface layer, slope is 0 to 3 percent. The soils are generally resistant to damage by wind with adequate grass cover.

Amarillo-Clovis fine sandy loams association: Deep and moderately deep, moderately sandy land, slope is 0 to 3 percent. This association is referred to as a sandy upland. The soils are susceptible to wind erosion.

Tivoli-Springer-Brownfield sands association: Deep, loose sandy land, slope is 0 to 25 percent. Locally this association is known as the sandhills. Most of the soils are deep and are highly susceptible to wind erosion.

3.11 Watershed – Hydrology

The watershed and hydrology in the area is affected by land and water use practices. The degree to which hydrologic processes are affected by land and water use depends on the location, extent, timing and the type of activity.

Factors that currently cause short-lived alterations to the hydrologic regime in the area include livestock grazing management, recreational use activities, groundwater pumping and also oil and gas developments such as well pads, permanent roads, temporary roads, pipelines, and powerlines.

3.12 Vegetation - The parcels indicate portions of the following Plant Communities: Mixed Desert Shrub, Shinnery-Oak Dune, Pinon/Juniper Community & Grassland Communities with several ecological sites. A detailed summary of these sites can be reviewed on USDA-NRCS Ecological Site and Soil Descriptions web site address:

www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/section-2/esd/cp4.html.

MIXED DESERT SHRUB

Lease parcels are within the mixed desert shrub plant community as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Appendix 11 of the Draft RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community.

The mixed desert shrub community is primarily made up of desert grasses, shrubs and cacti. The predominant shrub species include creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), little leaf sumac (*Rhus microphylla*), sage (*Artemisia* spp.), yucca (*Yucca* spp.) and javalinabush (*Condalia* spp.) Common cacti encountered are claret cup (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*), cholla (*Opuntia imbricata*), prickly pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*), and eagle claw (*Echinocactus horizonthalonius*). Forbs include plantain (*Plantago* spp.), globemallow (*Sphaeralcea* spp.), bladderpod (*Lesquerella* spp.) and buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.). Grasses include fluffgrass (*Dasyochloa pulchella*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*), burrograss (*Scleropogon brevifolius*), dropseed (*Sporobolus* spp.), tobosa (*Pleuraphis mutica*) and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). Additional species included are gyp grama (*Bouteloua breviseta*), coldenia (*Coldenia* spp.), gyp muhly (*Muhlenbergia* spp.) and Mormon tea (*Ephedra* spp.).

Biological crusts also make up a major portion of this soil surface where gyp inclusions may occur; these crusts are indicative of gyp outcrop soil and protect the surface from undue erosion.

SHINNERY-OAK DUNE

Lease parcels are within the shinnery-oak dune vegetative community as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Appendix 11 of the RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community. The primary features in the shinnery oak dune (SOD) community are topography influenced by aeolian and alluvial sedimentation on upland plains forming hummocks, dunes, sand ridges and swales and the presence of shinnery oak (*Quercus havardii*). The topography is gently sloping and undulating sandy plains, with moderate to very steep hummocky dunes of up to ten feet and more in height scattered throughout the area. Some of the dunes are stabilized with vegetation, while a number of them are unstable and shifting.

Dune blowouts with shinnery oak and bluestem, either isolated or in dune complexes are common in this community. Dominant grasses include sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and three-awn (*Aristida* spp.).

GRASSLAND COMMUNITY

Lease parcels are within the Grassland Plant Community (GR) as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Appendix 11 of the Draft RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community. The distinguishing feature for the grassland community is that grass species typically comprise 75% or more of the desired plant community. Short-grass, mid-grass and tall-grass species may be found within this community such as blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*), tobosa (*Pleuraphis mutica*) and burrograss (*Scleropogon brevifolius*). This community also includes shrub, half-shrub and forb species. The percentages of grasses, forbs and shrubs actually found at a particular location will vary with recent weather factors and past resource uses.

Pinon/Juniper Community Type (PJ)

Lease parcels are within the Pinon/Juniper Community Type (PJ) as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Appendix 11 of the Draft RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community. The primary consideration in listing range sites under this community type is topography influenced by higher hills and mountains with juniper, pinon or mountain mahogany in the description of the potential plant community.

The pinon/juniper community type is typically found in the mountain slopes and rolling foothills in the west half of the resource area. Smaller areas are scattered in the lower elevations, intermingled with the shortgrass habitat type. Slopes range from 15 to 75 percent, averaging 20 to 30 percent. The average elevation is from 4,500 feet to 7,500 feet. These include the riparian/wetland, drainages/draws/canyons and grassland types. The overstory is dominated by oneseed juniper, pinon pine, and alligator juniper. Ponderosa pine can be found in protected canyons bottoms and along the Rio Bonito.

The shrubby understory includes wavyleaf oak, little leaf sumac, mountain mahogany, algerita and fourwing saltbush. Forbs and grasses are represented by such species as wild buckwheat, sagewort, greenthread, sideoats grama, blue grama, creeping muhly, wolftail, fescue and wheatgrass.

3.13 Wildlife

The entire area provides a myriad of habitat types for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. The diversity and abundance of wildlife species in the area is due to the presence Grasslands, Shinnery Oak Dunes, Pecos River floodplain, a mixture of grassland habitat and mixed desert shrub vegetation, and escarpments which divides the uplands from the Pecos River valley.

Common bird species are mourning dove, mockingbird, white-crowned sparrow, black-throated sparrow, blue grosbeak, northern oriole, western meadowlark, Crissal thrasher, western kingbird, northern flicker, common nighthawk, loggerhead shrike, and roadrunner. Raptors include northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, American kestrel, and occasionally golden eagle and ferruginous hawk.

Common mammal species using the area include mule deer, pronghorn, coyote, gray fox, bobcat, striped skunk, porcupine, raccoon, badger, jackrabbit, cottontail, white-footed mouse, deer mouse, grasshopper mouse, kangaroo rat, spotted ground squirrel, and woodrat.

A variety of herptiles also occur in the area such as yellow mud turtle, box turtle, eastern fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, horned lizard, whiptail, hognose snake, coachwhip, gopher snake, rattlesnake, and spadefoot toad.

3.14 Special Status Species

In accordance with BLM Manual 6840, BLM manages certain sensitive species not federally listed as threatened or endangered in order to prevent or reduce the need to list them as threatened or endangered in the future. Included in this category are State listed endangered species and Federal candidate species which receive no special protections under the Endangered Species Act. Special status species with potential to occur in the proposed project area are listed in Table 3.16.1.

Table 3.16.1 Habitat Descriptions and Presence of BLM Roswell Field Office Special Status Species.

Common Name (scientific name)	Status	Habitat	Presence*
Lesser prairie chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>)	Candidate	Shinnery Oak Dune	K
Sand dune lizard (<i>Sceloporus arenicolus</i>)	State Endangered	Shinnery Oak Dune	S

Presence*

K Known, documented observation within lease parcel area.

S Habitat suitable and species suspected to occur within the lease parcel area.

3.15 Visual Resources

Visual Resource Management (VRM) on public lands is conducted in accordance with BLM Handbook 8410 and BLM Manual 8411.

3.16 Recreation

The lease areas are primarily used by recreational visitors engaged in hunting, caving, sightseeing, driving for pleasure, off-highway vehicle use, and other recreational activities. Non-recreation visitors include oil and gas industrial workers and ranchers.

3.17 Cave/Karst

No surface cave/karst features were observed in the immediate vicinity of the proposed actions. However, the proposed leases may be located in the High, Medium and Low Karst Potential Areas.

3.18 Public Health and Safety

The area containing the lease parcels has been under oil and gas development for many years. Leasing of the parcels analyzed in this EA would present no new or unusual health or safety issues not covered by existing state and federal laws and regulation.

3.19 Unplugged Well Agreements and Liability

There are no unplugged wells within any of the parcels being offered in the April 2009 Lease Sale.

3.20 Unitization or Communitization

Within the parcels offered for the April 2009 Lease Sale, there is no authorized or proposed Unitization or Communitization Agreement.

3.21 Parcels with Surface Disturbances

Certain lease parcels nominated in April 2009 Lease Sale still have unreclaimed surface disturbance. The new lessee will be held responsible for reclaiming the surface disturbances on the lease.

NM-200904-067 - Well Liability; K-M-Federal No. 1 well, located 2310' FSL & 1880' FWL in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 11, T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM.

NM-200904-069 - Well Liability; Denton Federal No. 1 well, located 990' FSL & 890' FWL in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM.

NM-200904-072 - Well Liability; King Camp Well No. 5, located 1980' FSL & 1980' FWL in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM and King Camp Well No. 7, located 1980' FSL & 660' FWL in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM.

NM-200904-073 - Well Liability; Patrick Federal #1 well, located 1980' FNL & 660' FWL in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM.

NM-200904-074 - The Saunders No. 1; located 2310' FNL & 2310' FWL in the SE¼NW¼, Section 25, T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

4.0 Environmental Consequences and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Alternative B - Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the nine ((9) parcels with underlying federal mineral lands are subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*) would be leased. The subsequent process of oil and/or gas construction, drilling, and production activities from the proposed action s would accumulate in current land and resource uses within the proposed lease areas. On a case by case basis the disposition of the leaseable parcels would not have significant adverse effects from the extraction of oil and gas minerals.

4.1 Air Resources

4.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

Air Quality

Leasing the subject tracts would have no direct impacts to air quality. Any potential effects to air quality from sale of lease parcels would occur at such time that the leases were developed. Over the last 10 years, the leasing of Federal oil and gas mineral estate in Roswell Field Office has resulted in an average total of 60 wells drilled on federal leases annually. These wells would contribute a small percentage of the total emissions (including GHG's) from oil and gas activities in New Mexico.

Potential impacts of development could include increased air borne soil particles blown from new well pads or roads, exhaust emissions from drilling equipment, compressors, vehicles, and dehydration and separation facilities, as well as potential releases of GHG and volatile organic compounds during drilling or production activities. The amount of increased emissions cannot be quantified at this time since it is unknown how many wells might be drilled, the types of equipment needed if a well were to be completed successfully (e.g. compressor, separator, dehydrator), or what technologies may be employed by a given company for drilling any new wells. The degree of impact will also vary according to the characteristics of the geologic formations from which production occurs.

The reasonable and foreseeable development scenario developed for the Roswell RMP demonstrated 60 wells would be drilled annually for Federal minerals. (The petroleum resources specific to these leases in the Proposed Action are not known whether they are gas or oil or a combination thereof. Oil wells are on a tighter spacing than gas wells, therefore it is unknown the specific number of wells that would be drilled as a result of issuing the leases.

However, the RFD takes these assumptions into account, and on a Field Office wide basis, is still valid.) Current APD permitting trends within the field office confirm that these assumptions are still accurate.

This level of exploration and production, as well as issuing the leases in the proposed action, would contribute a small incremental increase in overall hydrocarbon emissions, including GHGs, released into the planet's atmosphere. When compared to total national or global emissions, the amount released as a result of potential production from the proposed lease tracts would not have a measurable effect.

Coalbed methane does not exist within the field office and, therefore, there are no emissions from this source.

Climate

The assessment of GHG emissions and climate change is in its formative phase. It is currently not feasible to know with certainty the net impacts from the proposed action on climate. The inconsistency in results of scientific models used to predict climate change at the global scale coupled with the lack of scientific models designed to predict climate change on regional or local scales, limits the ability to quantify potential future impacts of decisions made at this level. When further information on the impacts to climate change is known, such information would be incorporated into the BLM's planning and NEPA documents as appropriate.

4.1.2 Mitigation

The EPA's inventory data breaks down the total US sources of GHG gases by major categories that include "Natural Gas Systems" and "Petroleum Systems." The inventory lists the contributions of natural gas and petroleum systems to total CO₂ and CH₄ emissions (natural gas and petroleum systems do not produce noteworthy amounts of any of the other greenhouse gases). For Natural Gas Systems, the EPA categorizes emissions from distinct stages of the larger category of natural gas systems. These stages include field production, processing, transmission and storage, and distribution.

The BLM has regulatory jurisdiction only over field production. Petroleum Systems sub-activities include production field operations, crude oil transportation, and crude oil refining. Within the petroleum systems emission categories, the BLM has authority to regulate production field operations.

The BLM's regulatory jurisdiction over field production of Natural Gas Systems and production field operations of Petroleum Systems has resulted in the development of "Best Management Practices (BMPs)" designed to reduce impacts to air quality by reducing all emissions from field production and operations. The future development of the lease parcels may be subject to appropriate conditions of approval (COAs) to reduce or mitigate GHG emissions. This may occur at the project level through additional analysis. Specific measures developed at the project stage would be incorporated as COAs in the approved APD, which are binding on the operator.

Typical measures may include: flare hydrocarbon and gases at high temperatures in order to reduce emissions of incomplete combustion; water dirt roads during periods of high use in order to reduce fugitive dust emissions; require that vapor recovery systems be maintained and functional in areas where petroleum liquids are stored; and re-vegetate areas of the pad not required for production facilities to reduce the amount of dust from the pads.

The EPA data show that improved practices and technology and changing economics have reduced emissions from oil and gas exploration and development (Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2006). One of the factors in this improvement is the adoption by industry of the Best Management Practices proposed by the EPA's Natural Gas Energy Star program. The Roswell Field Office will work with industry to facilitate the use of the relevant BMPs for operations proposed on federal mineral leases where such mitigation is consistent with agency policy.

4.2 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

While the act of leasing a parcel would produce no impacts, subsequent development of the lease could have impacts on archaeological and paleontological resources. Archaeological surveys could be required on subsequent actions that are expected to occur on the leased parcels.

4.2.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Consequential project construction has the potential to impact cultural and paleontological resources.

4.2.2 Mitigation

Avoidance measures would be imposed wherever cultural and/or paleontological resources are impacted or the option of archeological treatment prior to surface disturbance.

4.3 Native American Religious Concerns

If areas within these lease parcels are found to be highly significant to Native American tribes (Traditional Cultural Properties), they may be withdrawn from the lease sale.

4.3.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Consequential project construction has the potential to impact Traditional Cultural Properties.

4.3.2 Mitigation

Areas that contain Traditional Cultural Properties may be withdrawn from the lease sale.

4.4 Environmental Justice

4.4.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

No minority or low income populations would be directly affected in the vicinity of the proposed actions from subsequent proposed oil or gas projects. Indirect impacts could include impacts due to overall employment opportunities related to the oil and gas and service support industry in the region, as well as the economic benefits to State and County governments related to royalty payments and severance taxes.

4.4.2 Mitigation - None

4.5 Invasive, Non-native Species

4.5.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

While the act of leasing Federal minerals produces no impacts, subsequent development produces impacts in the form of surface disturbance. The construction of an access road and well pad may unintentionally contribute to the establishment and spread of noxious weeds. Noxious weed seed could be carried to and from the project areas by construction equipment, the drilling rig and transport vehicles. The main mechanism for seed dispersion on the road and well pad is by equipment and vehicles that were previously used and or driven across or through noxious weed infested areas.

The potential for the dissemination of invasive and noxious weed seed may be elevated by the use of construction equipment typically contracted out to companies that may be from other geographic areas in the region. Washing and decontaminating the equipment prior to transporting onto and exiting the construction areas would minimize this impact.

Impacts by noxious weeds will be minimized due to requirements for the company to eradicate the weeds upon discovery. Multiple applications may be required to effectively control the identified populations.

4.5.2 Mitigation

In the event noxious weeds are discovered during construction of any access roads and well pads, measures will be taken to mitigate those impacts.

4.6 Threatened or Endangered Species

Under Alternative B, there would be no impact to listed species as they would not occur in the area or impacts on the species have been determined to be “may affect, not likely to adversely affect”.

4.6.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts - None.

4.6.2 Mitigation - None.

4.7 Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

The lease parcels fall under environmental regulations that impact exploration and production waste management and disposal practices and impose responsibility and liability for protection of human health and the environment from harmful waste management practices or discharges.

4.7.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The direct impact would follow a lease sale project when solid waste is discarded and contaminates the land surface either by solid, semi-solid, liquid, or contained gaseous material.

The indirect impact is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) definition of solid wastes that have been designated as exempt and nonexempt and if it is hazardous, civil and criminal penalties may be imposed if the waste is not managed in a safe manner, and according to regulations.

4.7.2 Mitigation

The lease sale parcels are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C regulations which are extremely stringent. As well as, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) that provides for the exclusion of petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof from the definition of hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The mitigation would include the stringiest regulation of waste containment within the project areas.

4.8 Water Quality: Surface and Groundwater

4.8.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

While the act of leasing a parcel would produce no impacts, subsequent development of the lease would lead to surface disturbance from the construction of well pads, access roads, pipelines, and powerlines can result in degradation of surface water quality and groundwater quality from non-point source pollution, increased soil losses, and increased gully erosion.

Potential direct impacts that would occur due to construction of well pads, access roads, pipelines, and powerlines include increased surface water runoff and off-site sedimentation brought about by soil disturbance: increased salt loading and water quality impairment of surface waters; channel morphology changes due to road and pipeline crossings; and possible contamination of surface waters by produced water. The magnitude of these impacts to water resources would depend on the proximity of the disturbance to the drainage channel, slope aspect and gradient, degree and area of soil disturbance, soil character, duration and time within which construction activity would occur, and the timely implementation and success or failure of mitigation measures.

Direct impacts would likely be greatest shortly after the start of construction activities and would likely decrease in time due to natural stabilization, and reclamation efforts. Construction activities would occur over a relatively short period; therefore, the majority of the disturbance would be intense but short lived.

Direct impacts to surface water quality would be minor, short-term impacts which may occur during storm flow events. Indirect impacts to water-quality related resources, such as fisheries, would not occur.

Petroleum products and other chemicals, accidentally spilled, could result in surface and groundwater contamination. Similarly, possible leaks from reserve and evaporation pits could degrade surface and ground water quality. Authorization of the proposed projects would require full compliance with BLM directives and stipulations that relate to surface and groundwater protection.

4.8.2 Mitigation

The use of a plastic-lined reserve pits would reduce or eliminate seepage of drilling fluid into the soil and eventually reaching groundwater. The use of a closed system or steel tanks would reduce or eliminate the seepage of drilling fluid into the soil and groundwater. Spills or produced fluids (e.g., saltwater, oil, and/or condensate in the event of a breach, overflow, or spill from storage tanks) could result in contamination of the soil onsite, or offsite, and may potentially impact surface and groundwater resources in the long term. The casing and cementing requirements imposed on proposed wells would reduce or eliminate the potential for groundwater contamination from drilling muds and other surface sources.

Stipulation SENM-S-19; Playas and Alkali Lakes; is attached to the following parcels:

NM-200904-069

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 022 W2SESW;

Chaves County, New Mexico

NM-200904-073

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 014 N2SWSE;

Chaves County, New Mexico

Stipulation SENM-S-20; Springs, Seeps and Tanks; is attached to the following parcels:

NM-200904-067

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 012 W2SWSW;

Chaves County, New Mexico

NM-200904-068

T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 003 S2SENE;

004 S2SESW;

009 W2NENE, W2SENE;

010 W2SESW;

Chaves County, New Mexico

NM-200904-073

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 014 N2SWSE;

Chaves County, New Mexico

4.9 General Topography /Surface Geology

The general topography and surface geology of the lease parcels are generally impacted by the construction projects that are permitted as a result of subsequent APD actions.

4.9.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The direct impact from a lease sale is that land involved could fall within an environmental sensitive area and subsequent lease actions could impact the issues of environmental concern. Split estate is an issue of concern on a lease sale when and if a private surface landowner is not in agreement with the proposed project which could create an environmental sensitive area until the issues are resolved with the surface owner.

Indirectly the proposed projects could fall within protected areas that would require changing the spacing requirements of a well by moving the location and/or road.

4.9.2 Mitigation

The lease sale could have mitigation measures imposed on the proposed subsequent action when and if the concern involves the issuance of such mitigation measures that are deemed necessary to resolve the environmental predicament.

4.10 Soil

4.10.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

While the act of leasing a tract would produce no impacts, subsequent development of the lease would physically disturb the topsoil and would expose the substratum soil on subsequent project areas.

Direct impacts resulting from the oil and gas construction of well pads, access roads, and reserve pits include removal of vegetation, exposure of the soil, mixing of horizons, compaction, loss of top soil productivity and susceptibility to wind and water erosion. Wind erosion would be expected to be a minor contributor to soil erosion with the possible exception of dust from vehicle traffic. These impacts could result in increased indirect impacts such as runoff, erosion and off-site sedimentation. Activities that could cause these types of indirect impacts include construction and operation of well sites, access roads, gas pipelines and facilities.

Contamination of soil from drilling and production wastes mixed into soil or spilled on the soil surfaces could cause a long-term reduction in site productivity. Some of these direct impacts can be reduced or avoided through proper design, construction and maintenance and implementation of best management practices.

Additional soil impacts associated with lease development would occur when heavy precipitation causes water erosion damage. When water saturated segment(s) on the access road become impassable, vehicles may still be driven over the road. Consequently, deep tire ruts would develop. Where impassable segments are created from deep rutting, unauthorized driving may occur outside the designated route of access roads.

4.10.2 Mitigation

The operator would stockpile the topsoil from the surface of well pads which would be used for surface reclamation of the well pads. The impact to the soil would be remedied upon reclamation of well pads when the stockpiled soil that was specifically conserved to establish a seed-bed is spread over well pads and vegetation re-establishes.

Reserve pits would be re-contoured and reseeded as described in attached Conditions of Approval. Upon abandonment of wells and/or when access roads are no longer in service the Authorized Officer would issue instructions and/or orders for surface reclamation/restoration of the disturbed areas as described in attached Conditions of Approval.

Road constructions requirements and regular maintenance would alleviate potential impacts to access roads from water erosion damage.

For the purpose of protecting slopes or fragile soil surface disturbance will not be allowed on slopes over 30 percent.

Stipulation SENM-S-17; Slopes or Fragile Soils is attached to the following parcels:

NM-200904-065

T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 003 LOTS 5,6,7;

003 W2SENE, W2NESE, SESE, E2SWSE;

004 S2LOT 8;

010 NENE, E2NWNE, E2SWNE, SENE, E2NESE;

011 NWNW, W2SWNW;

012 W2SWSW;

013 W2SENW, NWNW, W2NESW;

Guadalupe County, New Mexico

NM-200904-066

T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM

Sec. 009 E2NWNW, SWNW, W2NWSW, SWSW, SENW;

Guadalupe County, New Mexico

4.11 Watershed - Hydrology

4.11.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

While the act of leasing a parcel would produce no impacts, subsequent development of the lease would result in long term and short term alterations to the hydrologic regime. Peak flow and low flow of perennial streams, ephemeral, and intermittent rivers and streams would be directly affected by an increase in impervious surfaces resulting from the construction of the well pad and road. The potential hydrologic effects to peak flow is reduced infiltration where surface flows can move more quickly to perennial or ephemeral rivers and streams, causing peak flow to occur earlier and to be larger. Increased magnitude and volume of peak flow can cause bank erosion, channel widening, downward incision, and disconnection from the floodplain. The potential hydrologic effects to low flow is reduced surface storage and groundwater recharge, resulting in reduced baseflow to perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent rivers and streams. The direct impact would be that hydrologic processes may be altered where the perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent river and stream system responds by changing physical parameters, such as channel configuration. These changes may in turn impact chemical parameters and ultimately the aquatic ecosystem.

Long-term direct and indirect impacts to the watershed and hydrology would continue for the life of wells and would decrease once all well pads and road surfacing material has been removed and reclamation of well pads, access roads, pipelines, and powerlines has taken place. Short term direct and indirect impacts to the watershed and hydrology from access roads that are not surfaced with material would occur and would likely decrease in time due to reclamation efforts.

4.11.2 Mitigation

The topsoil will be stripped to approximately 6 inches in depth within the area designated for construction of the well pad. The operator shall stockpile the stripped topsoil adjacent to the constructed well pad.

The topsoil will be used for interim and final reclamation of the surface disturbance created by the construction of the well pad. Reserve pits would be re-contoured and reseeded as described in attached Conditions of Approval. Upon abandonment of the wells and/or when access roads are no longer in service the Authorized Officer would issue instructions and/or orders for surface reclamation/restoration of the disturbed areas as described in the attached Conditions of Approval. The direct and indirect impacts to soil resulting from the surface disturbing activities will be mitigated through the instructions and/or orders for surface reclamation/restoration of the disturbed areas.

4.12 Vegetation

4.12.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

At this stage (lease sale) there are no impacts. Impacts (both direct and indirect) would occur when the lease is developed in the future. The potential impacts would be analyzed on a site specific basis prior to oil and gas development.

4.12.2 Mitigation – At the lease stage there are no impacts to any trend plots or study locations.

4.13 Special Status Species

Under the 2008 SSS RMPA, no new leasing is allowed in the Core Management Area (CMA), Sparse and Scattered Population Area (SSPA) and occupied habitat within the Primary Population Area (PPA).

4.13.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The six (6) parcels that lie within these categories are not available for leasing per the decisions within the 2008 Special Status Species RMPA Amendment. Therefore, there are no impacts to the habitats of either the lesser prairie-chicken or the sand dune lizard.

4.13.2 Mitigation – The following parcels are located in areas closed to new leasing as described in the 2008 Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment.

NM-200904-070 640.000 Acres Core Management Area (CMA)
T.0120S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM
Sec. 024 ALL;
Chaves County

NM-200904-071	1280.220 Acres	Core Management Area (CMA)
T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM		
Sec. 004 LOTS 1-4;		
004 S2N2,S2;		
009 ALL;		
Chaves County		
NM-200904-077	160.000 Acres	Core Management Area (CMA)
T.0120S, R.0300E, NM PM, NM		
Sec. 029 SW;		
Chaves County		
NM-200904-078	643.700 Acres	Sparse and Scattered Population Area (SSPA)
T.0150S, R.0300E, NM PM, NM		
Sec. 031 LOTS 1-4;		
031 E2,E2W2;		
Chaves County		
NM-200904-096	564.580 Acres	Sparse and Scattered Population Area (SSPA)
T.0070S, R.0370E, NM PM, NM		
Sec. 005 LOTS 1-3;		
005 S2NE,SENE;		
006 LOTS 6,7;		
006 E2SW,SE;		
Roosevelt County		
NM-200904-097	2537.600 Acres	Primary Population Area (PPA)
T.0070S, R.0370E, NM PM, NM		
Sec. 007 LOTS 3,4;		
007 E2SW,SE;		
018 LOTS 1-4;		
018 E2,E2W2;		
019 LOTS 1-4;		
019 E2,E2W2;		
020 ALL;		
021 W2;		
Roosevelt County		

4.14 Wildlife

Two (2) parcels will require lease notices and stipulation for the protection of the Sand Dune Lizard.

4.14.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Subsequent lease development within the parcels open for leasing would impact wildlife due to surface disturbance and habitat fragmentation. The magnitude of impacts would depend on the exact location and time of development in relation to the affected wildlife species and habitat. These impacts would be analyzed on a site specific basis prior to development.

4.14.2 Mitigation

Stipulation and lease notices will be attached to the lease parcels to minimize wildlife impacts. When subsequent lease developments within these parcels are proposed, the wildlife protection stipulations will be attached to the Conditions of Approval of the proposed actions.

Lease Notice SENM-LN-02; Protection of the Sand Dune Lizard is attached to the following parcel:

NM-200904-072

T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM
Sec. 017 ALL; SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.)
Chaves County

Lease Notice SENM-LN-02; Protection of the Sand Dune Lizard;
Stipulation SENM-S-23; No Surface Occupancy Sand Dune Lizard, are attached to the following parcel:

NM-200904-074

T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM
Sec. 025 West½; SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.)
Sec. 025 East½; SENM-S-23
Chaves County

4.15 Recreation

While the act of leasing Federal minerals produces no impacts, subsequent development of a lease would generate impacts to recreation activities. In public land that are small or land-locked by private or state land, recreation opportunities that could occur in this area would be limited or non-existent due to land patterns. In isolated tracks of public land that generally do not have access through state land or county or state roads, oil and gas activities would have little or no affect on the recreational opportunities in this area. In larger blocks of public land recreation activities that could occur within this area are limited to access from BLM land, county roads or through state land during hunting seasons.

4.15.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts - None

4.15.2 Mitigation – None.

4.16 Visual Resources

Visual resource management is broken into four VRM classes. In the tracts proposed for leasing only VRM classes III and IV are represented.

The VRM Class III objective is to partially retain existing landscape character. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate a casual observer's view. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Facilities, such as condensate and produced water or oil storage tanks that rise above eight feet, would provide a geometrically strong vertical and horizontal visual contrast in form and line to the characteristic landscape and vegetation, which have flat, horizontal to slightly rolling form and line. The construction of an access road, well pad and other ancillary facilities, other than facilities greater in height than eight feet, would slightly modify the existing area visual resources.

Under visual resource Class III, the method for repeating the basic elements would be to remove strong vertical and horizontal contrast through use of low-profile facilities as reflected in the Roswell RMP (1997, p. AP1-4). Depending on the production nature of the well site, multiple low-profile condensate and/or oil or produced water tanks would be necessary to accommodate the project.

Through color manipulation, by painting well facilities to blend with the rolling to flat vegetative and/or landform setting with a flat gray-green color, the view is expected to favorably blend with the form, line, color and texture of the existing landscape. The flat color Juniper Green from the supplemental environmental colors also closely approximates the gray green color of the setting. All facilities, including the meter building, would be painted this color. Cumulative adverse visual impacts can be avoided by gradually moving into a more appropriate vegetative/landform setting color scheme. Facilities with low-profile horizontal line and form would facilitate favorable blending as older facilities go out of production and are removed.

The VRM Class IV objective is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing landscape character. Every attempt, however, should be made to reduce or eliminate activity impacts through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic landscape elements. Facilities, such as condensate and produced water or oil storage tanks that rise above eight feet, would provide a geometrically strong vertical and horizontal visual contrast in form and line to the characteristic landscape and vegetation, which have flat, horizontal to slightly rolling form and line. The construction of an access road, well pad and other ancillary facilities would slightly modify the existing area visual resources. Through color manipulation, by painting well facilities to blend with the rolling to flat vegetative and/or landform setting with a gray-green color. The view is expected to favorably blend with the form, line, color and texture of the existing landscape. The flat Juniper Green from the supplemental environmental colors also closely approximates the gray green color of the setting. All facilities, including the meter building, would be painted this color. Cumulative adverse visual impacts can be avoided by gradually moving into a more appropriate vegetative/landform setting color scheme.

4.16.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Through color manipulation, by painting well facilities to blend with the rolling to flat vegetative and/or landform setting with a gray-green the view is expected to favorably blend with the form, line, color and texture of the existing landscape

4.16.2 Mitigation

The flat color Juniper Green from the Standard Environmental Colors Chart is to be used on all facilities to closely approximate the vegetation within the setting. All facilities, including the meter building, would be painted this color. If the proposed area is in a scenic corridor a low profile tank less than eight feet in high may be recommended for the proposed action.

4.17 Cave/Karst

The tracts proposed for leasing may be located in a low, medium or high karst potential area. If the lease is in a low karst potential area there may be very little challenges in producing petroleum products from this location. If the proposed lease is in a medium or high karst potential area there could be the potential of adverse impact to known cave entrances or karst features is present within the lease area.

4. 17.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts - Leasing does not in itself cause a problem to a cave or karst area.

4.17.2 Mitigation – NONE.

4.18 Public Health and Safety

Public Health and Safety would not be impacted by the leasing of the parcels.

4.18.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The subsequent construction, drilling, and production operations could have direct impacts on public health and safety during the conduct of oil and gas activities on the lease. Indirectly if the operations on subsequent lease actions are carried out in a safe workman like manner, no impacts are anticipated.

4.18.2 Mitigation

Upon subsequent proposed projects mitigation measures may be attached to the condition of approval if the operations are not conducted in a professional constructive manner.

4.19 Cumulative Impacts

There are about 4,500 wells in the Roswell Field Office. Federal wells are approximately 40 percent (1,800) of this total.

Estimates of total surface disturbance for this lease sale action are based on full field development. Full field development assumes development of every spacing unit and has a total complement of roads, pads, power lines, gravel sources and pipelines. Exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources outside of well-developed areas increases the distance required for roads, pipelines, and power lines. The parcels offered are not within or near well-developed fields.

The surface disturbance assumptions shown in the following table estimate impacts associated with oil and gas exploration and development drilling activities in these areas.

Full Field Development *				
parcel	acres in parcel	acres disturbed 40 acre spacing	acres disturbed 160 acre spacing	acres disturbed 320 acre spacing
NM-200904-065	1541.700	347	87	43
NM-200904-066	956.300	215	54	9
NM-200904-067	1440.000	324	81	41
NM-200904-068	1680.710	27	9	9
NM-200904-069	520.000	117	9	9
NM-200904-072	1920.000	432	9	9
NM-200904-073	480.000	108	9	9
NM-200904-074	640.000	144	9	9
NM-200904-084	160.000	36	9	9

* (assumes all surface disturbance for development of resources is on the parcel acreage)

- Access Roads: 14 foot wide travel way, 3.0 acres disturbance per access road
- Drill Pads: 1.4 acres disturbance per average well pad (250 feet x 250 feet)
- Pipelines: 3.6 acres initial disturbance per producing well (30 feet right-of-way width)
- Power lines: 1.0 acre initial disturbance per producing well
- Total Surface disturbance: 9 acres

Cumulative Impact Table (Based on Full Field Development)

	40-ACRE SPACING	160-ACRE SPACING	320-ACRE SPACING
Soil	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage
Water Resources	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage
Floodplains	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage
Air Quality	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage
Cultural Resources	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage
Paleontological Resources	21% -23% of parcel acreage	5% - 7% of parcel acreage	2% - 3% of parcel acreage

Analysis of cumulative impacts for reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) of oil and gas wells on public lands in the Roswell Field Office was presented in the 1994 Draft Roswell Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RFD was validated in the 2006 Draft Special Status Species RMP Amendment. Potential development of all available federal minerals in the field office, including those in the proposed lease parcels, was included as part of the analysis.

Due to the absence of regulatory requirements to measure GHG emissions and the variability of oil and gas activities on federal minerals, it is not possible to accurately quantify potential GHG emissions in the affected areas as a result of making the proposed tracts available for leasing. Some general assumptions however can be made: leasing the proposed tracts may contribute to drilling new wells. (Refer to limitations of projecting actual number of wells as a result of the proposed action under direct/indirect effects.)

The New Mexico Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reference Case Projection 1990-2020 (Inventory) estimates that approximately 19.6 million metric tons of both CO₂ and CH₄ emissions were produced in 2010 by oil and natural gas production, processing, transmission and distribution. Of the 19.3 million metric tons, approximately 17.3 million metric tons may be attributed to natural gas activities and 2.3 million metric tons can be attributed to oil production.¹ As of 2008, the Inventory indicates that there approximately 23,196 oil wells and 27,778 gas wells in the State.

There are approximately 4,560 existing oil and gas wells in the Roswell Field Office, which account for approximately 9 percent of the total wells in New Mexico. Therefore, GHG emissions from all wells within the field office amount to approximately 1.764 metric tons annually ($19.6 \text{ mmt} \times 0.09 = 1.764 \text{ mmt}$). Federal oil and gas wells amount to approximately 40 percent of the wells within the field office (see Appendix 7 of the 2006 Draft Special Status Species RMP Amendment.). Annual GHG emissions from federal oil and gas wells are approximately 0.71 metric tons ($1.763 \text{ mmt} \times 0.4 = 0.71 \text{ mmt}$).¹

These average number of oil and gas wells drilled annually in the Field Office and probable GHG emission levels, when compared to the total GHG emission estimates from the total number of oil and gas wells in the State, represent an incremental contribution to the total regional and global GHG emission levels.

This incremental contribution to global GHG gases cannot be translated into incremental effects on climate change globally or in the area of these site-specific actions. As oil and gas and natural gas production technology continues to improve in the future, one assumption is that it may be feasible to further reduce GHG emissions.

Regarding the linkage between climate change related warming and associated impacts, an assessment of the IPCC states that difficulties remain in attributing observed temperature changes at smaller than continental scales. Therefore, it is currently beyond the scope of existing science to predict climate change on regional or local scales resulting from specific sources of GHG emissions.

In 2000, approximately 17 million metric tons and 2.3 million metric tons were respectively attributed to natural gas and oil activities. As of 2002, the Inventory indicates that there are approximately 21,771 oil wells and 23,261 gas wells in the State.

Significant uncertainties remain with respect to: the quality of historical field data, processing, and pipeline use of natural gas, does not factor in reclaimed wells and total number of new wells drilled per year; CO₂ emissions from enhanced oil recovery, which have not been estimated; and refinery fuel use-EIA indicates less than half the refinery fuel use as indicated by refinery permit data.

5.0 Description of Mitigating Measures and Residual Impacts

The lease sale will be mitigated by attaching the Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulation(s) to the lease parcel(s). The Roswell Field Office, Surface Use and Occupancy Requirements, Conditions of Approval, and the Roswell Field Office's Special Leasing Stipulations, which are in place at the New Mexico State Office, will provide adequate mitigation for all lease parcels.

Direct, indirect, cumulative and residual impacts of leasing and lease development are generally described in the Roswell Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, October 1997. An environmental analysis will be prepared on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of future subsequent actions.

6.0 Consultation/Coordination

This section includes individuals or organizations from the public and its' users, the interdisciplinary team, and permittees that were contacted during the development of this document.

BLM Lease Staff

Richard Hill, Environmental Protection Specialist
Al Collar, Geologist
Joseph Navarro, Rangeland Management Specialist
Pat Flanary, Archaeologist
Michael McGee, Hydrologist
John Simitz, Geologist
Dan Baggao, Wildlife Biologist
Angel Mayes, Assistant Field Manager - Lands & Minerals
Phil Watts, GIS Specialist
Jerry Dutchover, Minerals
Howard Parman, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
David Glass, Petroleum Engineer
Scott Sanderford, Realty Specialist
Brad Pendley, Assistant Field Manager – Resources
George Farmer, New Mexico State Game & Fish

7.0 References

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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 1997. Roswell Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Roswell, New Mexico.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 1997. Roswell Approved Resource Management and Plan Record of Decision. Roswell, New Mexico.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2008. Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision. Roswell, New Mexico.

7.1 Authorities

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3100

40 CFR All Parts and Sections inclusive Protection of Environment, Revised as of July 1, 2001.

43 CFR, All Parts and Sections inclusive - Public Lands: Interior. Revised as of October 1, 2000.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Office of the Solicitor (editors). 2001. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended. Public Law 94-579.

Appendix 1- Table 1

Table 1. Proposed Action – Leaseable Parcels

Parcel Number	Legal Description	Acres	Stipulations
NM-200904-065	<p>T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 001 LOTS 1-4;</p> <p>003 LOTS 1-8;</p> <p>003 SENE,E2SE,SWSE;</p> <p>004 LOTS 1,8;</p> <p>010 NE,SW,N2SE,SWSE;</p> <p>011 W2NW,SESE;</p> <p>012 SWSW;</p> <p>013</p> <p>SWNE,E2NW,NWNW,NESW,NWSE;</p> <p>014 NWNW;</p> <p>015 NWNW,S2SW;</p> <p>Guadalupe County</p>	1541.700 Acres	<p>SENM-S-17:</p> <p>T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 003</p> <p>LOTS 5,6,7;</p> <p>003</p> <p>W2SENE, W2NESE, SESE, E2SWSE;</p> <p>004</p> <p>S2LOT 8;</p> <p>010</p> <p>NENE, E2NWNE, E2SWNE, SENE, E2NESE;</p> <p>011</p> <p>NWNW, W2SWNW;</p> <p>012</p> <p>W2SWSW;</p> <p>013</p> <p>W2SENW, NWNW, W2NESW;</p>
NM-200904-066	<p>T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 004 LOTS 4,5;</p> <p>004 SWNW;</p> <p>005 LOTS 1,2,8;</p> <p>005 SENE,N2SW,NESE;</p> <p>006 LOTS 3,4,5,9,10,11;</p> <p>006 SWNE,SENW,E2SW;</p> <p>007 LOTS 1;</p> <p>009 W2W2,SENW;</p> <p>018 SESW;</p> <p>Guadalupe County</p>	956.300 Acres	<p>SENM-S-17:</p> <p>T.0080N, R.0190E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 009</p> <p>E2NWNW, SWNW, W2NWSW, SWSW, SENW;</p>
NM-200904-067	<p>T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 001 N2;</p> <p>011 S2;</p> <p>012 E2,SW;</p> <p>014 E2;</p> <p>Chaves County</p>	1440.000 Acres	<p>SENM-S-20:</p> <p>T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM</p> <p>Sec. 012</p> <p>W2SWSW;</p>

NM-200904-068	T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM Sec. 003 LOTS 3,4; 003 S2NW,S2SW,SWSE; 004 LOTS 1-3; 004 S2NE,SENW,E2SW,SE; 009 E2E2; 010 NWNE,S2NE,W2,SE; 015 NE; Chaves County	1680.710 Acres	SENM-S-20: T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM Sec. 003 S2SENW; 004 S2SESW; 009 W2NENE, W2SENE; 010 W2SESW;
NM-200904-069	T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM Sec. 022 S2S2; 023 S2S2; 024 S2NW,W2SW; 026 NENE; Chaves County	520.000 Acres	SENM-S-19: T.0050S, R.0270E, NM PM, NM Sec. 022 W2SESW;
NM-200904-072	T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 007 E2,E2W2; 008 W2; 017 ALL; 018 E2,E2W2; Chaves County	1920.000 Acres	SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.) T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 017 ALL;
NM-200904-073	T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 014 E2; 022 NE; Chaves County	480.000 Acres	SENM-S-19 AND SENM-S-20: T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 014 N2SWSE;
NM-200904-074	T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 025 ALL; Chaves County	640.000 Acres	SENM-LN-02 (May 2008 ver.) West ½ & SENM-S-23 East 1/2 T.0150S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 025;
NM-200904-084	T.0050S, R.0330E, NM PM, NM Sec. 020 NE; Roosevelt County	160.000 Acres	none

Appendix 1- Table 2

Table 2. Parcels Closed to New Oil and Gas Leasing

The following parcels are located in areas closed to new leasing as described in the 2008 Special Status Species Resource Management Plan Amendment.

Parcel Number	Legal Description	Acres
NM-200904-070	T.0120S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 024 ALL; Chaves County	640.000 Acres CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
NM-200904-071	T.0130S, R.0290E, NM PM, NM Sec. 004 LOTS 1-4; 004 S2N2,S2; 009 ALL; Chaves County	1280.220 Acres CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
NM-200904-077	T.0120S, R.0300E, NM PM, NM Sec. 029 SW; Chaves County	160.000 Acres CORE MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)
NM-200904-078	T.0150S, R.0300E, NM PM, NM Sec. 031 LOTS 1-4; 031 E2,E2W2; Chaves County	643.700 Acres SPARSE AND SCATTERED POPULATION AREA (SSPA)
NM-200904-096	T.0070S, R.0370E, NM PM, NM Sec. 005 LOTS 1-3; 005 S2NE,SE;NW; 006 LOTS 6,7; 006 E2SW,SE; Roosevelt County	564.580 Acres PRIMARY POPULATION AREA (PPA)
NM-200904-097	T.0070S, R.0370E, NM PM, NM Sec. 007 LOTS 3,4; 007 E2SW,SE; 018 LOTS 1-4; 018 E2,E2W2; 019 LOTS 1-4; 019 E2,E2W2; 020 ALL; 021 W2; Roosevelt County	2537.600 Acres PRIMARY POPULATION AREA (PPA)